

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 026447

60

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA/EGY - MR MATTHEWS

NEA/IAI - MR SMITH

NEA - MR ABINGTON

D/HA - MR SIEVERTS

S/S - O:AOTTO

----- 035890

P 032208Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 026447

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOL RPT GENEVA 0692 ACTION SECSTATE 30 JAN.

QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 0692

STADIS

EXDIS

FOR D/HA - SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ICRC ASSISTANCE IN ISRAELI BODY EXCHANGE

REF: GENEVA 0076 AND PREVIOUS

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1. CONVERS, HAVING RETURNED FROM TRIP TO CAIRO, TEL AVIV

AND DAMASCUS, INFORMED MISOFF TODAY THAT POSITIONS ON EXCHANGE OF EGYPTIAN DETAINEES FOR ISRAELI BODIES HAD HARDENED CONSIDERABLY. EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM EGYPT WOULD NOT RETURN ISRAELI BODIES, INCLUDING TWO KILLED IN 1955, UNTIL ALL RPT ALL EGYPTIAN DETAINEES HAD BEEN RELEASED BY ISRAEL, AS HE STATED WAS PROVIDED FOR IN ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. CONVERS SAID MINISTER'S STATEMENT LED HIM BELIEVE EGYPTIANS HAVE AT LEAST SOME KNOWLEDGE WHERE NINE ISRAELI BODIES IN DISPUTE ARE BURIED.

2. CONVERS SAID HE CONFIDENT THAT ISRAELIS WOULD PROCEED WITH RELEASE OF TWENTY EGYPTIAN DETAINEES THROUGH ICRC IN NEAR FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT PERES HAD TOLD HIM GOI WOULD NOT RELEASE REMAINDER (APPROXIMATELY THIRTEEN) UNTIL ALL ISRAELI BODIES ARE RETURNED. CONVERS SAID PERES TOLD HIM HIS GOVERNMENT CERTAIN EGYPTIANS IN POSSESSION OF NINE REMAINS IN QUESTION.

3. CONVERS SAID ICRC PLANS NO FURTHER MOVES IN MATTER FOR PRESENT AND/OR UNTIL ONE SIDE OR OTHER MAKES MOVE. BUT, OTHER THAN FOR RELEASE OF TWENTY, HE FEELS THAT SITUATION NOW AT ANOTHER IMPASSE.DALE

UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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